

Attorney Docket No.: 0200105

In the Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A data access arrangement for use in a communications device having a chassis ground, the data access arrangement circuit comprising:

programmable line side circuitry, including network interface circuitry;

a diode bridge having a first pair of terminals for coupling data signals to a network connection and a second pair of terminals coupled to the network interface circuitry;

a high voltage clamping device disposed between the second pair of terminals; a first capacitor coupled between the chassis ground and one of the terminals of the second pair of terminals; and

a second capacitor coupled between the chassis ground and the other terminal of the second pair of terminals;

thereby limiting a maximum voltage to which the programmable line side circuitry can be exposed to substantially a voltage rating of the high voltage clamping device for longitudinal and metallic high voltage surges.

Claim 2 (canceled)

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Claim 3 (previously presented): The data access arrangement of claim 1, further comprising:

at least one additional high voltage clamping device disposed between the terminals of the first pair of terminals.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The data access arrangement of claim 1, the communications device having a chassis ground, further comprising:

a third capacitor coupled between the chassis ground and one of the terminals of the first pair of terminals; and

a fourth capacitor coupled between the chassis ground and the other terminal of the first pair of terminals.

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Claim 5 (original): The data access arrangement of claim 1, wherein the network connection is an RJ-11 jack for coupling to a telephone line.

Claim 6 (original): The data access arrangement of claim 1, wherein the high voltage clamping device is a metal oxide varistor.

Claim 7 (original): The data access arrangement of claim 1, wherein the high voltage clamping device is a SIDACTor™.

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Claim 8 (original): The data access arrangement of claim 1, the high voltage clamping device having a maximum specified voltage rating between 410 volts and 455 volts at a maximum specified current rating between 5 amps and 50 amps.

Claim 9 (original): The data access arrangement of claim 1, further comprising: system side circuitry configurable to communicate with a host system; and a high voltage isolation barrier having a first side and a second side, the first side coupled to the network interface circuitry and the second side coupled to the system side circuitry .

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Claim 10 (original): The data access arrangement of claim 9, the high voltage isolation barrier comprising a capacitor.

Claim 11 (original): The data access arrangement of claim 1 operating in substantial compliance with an xDSL modem standard.

Claim 12 (original): The data access arrangement of claim 1 operating in substantial compliance with a home networking protocol.

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Claim 13 (currently amended): A data access arrangement for use in a communications device having a chassis or earth ground, the data access arrangement circuit comprising:

programmable line side circuitry, including network interface circuitry;

a diode bridge having a first pair of terminals for coupling data signals to a network connection and a second pair of terminals coupled to the network interface circuitry;

a first high voltage clamping device disposed between the chassis ground and one of the terminals of the second pair of terminals;

a second high voltage clamping device coupled between the chassis ground and the other terminal of the second pair of terminals;

a first capacitor coupled between the chassis ground and one of the terminals of the second pair of terminals; and

a second capacitor coupled between the chassis ground and the other terminal of the second pair of terminals;

thereby limiting a maximum voltage to which the programmable line side circuitry can be exposed to substantially a voltage rating of the high voltage clamping device for longitudinal and metallic high voltage surges.

Claim 14 (canceled)

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Claim 15 (previously presented): The data access arrangement of claim 13 ,
wherein the high voltage clamping device is a metal oxide varistor.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A communications device comprising:

- a chassis ground;
- host processing circuitry;
- system side circuitry coupled to the host processing circuitry;
- programmable line side circuitry, including network interface circuitry;
- a voltage isolation barrier having a first side and a second side, the first side coupled to the network interface circuitry and the second side coupled to the system side circuitry;
- a diode bridge having a first pair of terminals for coupling data signals to a network connection and a second pair of terminals coupled to the network interface circuitry;
- a high voltage clamping device disposed between the terminals of the second pair of terminals;
- a first capacitor coupled between the chassis ground and one of the terminals of the second pair of terminals of the diode bridge; and
- a second capacitor coupled between the chassis ground and the other terminal of the second pair of terminals of the diode bridge;

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thereby limiting a maximum voltage to which the programmable line side circuitry can be exposed to substantially a voltage rating of the high voltage clamping device for longitudinal and metallic high voltage surges.

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (original): The communications device of claim 16, wherein the high voltage clamping device is a metal oxide varistor.

Claim 19 (original): The communications device of claim 16, wherein the network connection is an RJ-11 jack for coupling to a telephone line.

Claim 20 (original): The communications device of claim 16, the high voltage isolation barrier comprising a capacitor.
